

REMARKS

Claims 5-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 5-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tani et al. (US Patent 5,972,807) in view of Yamamoto et al. (US. Patent 6,387,969).

Without acquiescing to the merits of the rejection, it is respectfully submitted that Yamamoto et al. is assigned to Nitto Denko Corporation and issued on May 14, 2002, which is after the November 27, 2000 effective U.S. filing date of the present application (i.e., filing date of parent application 09/721,666; now US Patent 6,696,529). Therefore, Yamamoto et al. is potentially a reference only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The inventive entity of Yamamoto et al. and the present invention are the same, and the disclosure being relied upon by the Examiner is not "by another" as required by 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Therefore, Yamamoto et al. is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Also, even if Yamamoto et al. were a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), the present invention and Yamamoto et al were both owned by Nitto Denko Corporation at the time the present invention was made, so based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), the present invention cannot be rejected as obvious over a combination of references including Yamamoto et al.

Accordingly, removal of Yamamoto et al. as a reference and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 5-10 are respectfully requested.

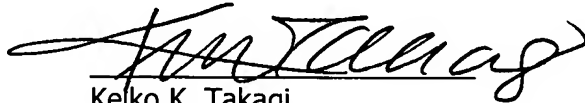
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/736,529

Attorney Docket Q78606

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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